

NAKSHALBARI COLLEGE  
DEPT. OF ENGLISH

*TOPIC - TRAGEDY*

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# Tragedy

# Aristotle's *Definition* of Tragedy

“A tragedy is the imitation of an action that is serious and also, as having magnitude, complete in itself; in appropriate and pleasurable language;... in a dramatic rather than narrative form; with incidents arousing pity and fear, wherewith to accomplish a catharsis of these emotions.”

# Plot

1. (Reversal of fortune)Peripeteia
2. (Recognition)Anagnorisis
3. (Sympathy)Pathos
4. ~~Catharsis~~

\*we will only deal with the first 3

# Character

## Distinguishing features of the tragic hero



The protagonist should be true to life, yet more beautiful and renowned and prosperous, so his change of fortune can be from good to bad. This change “should come about as the result, not of vice, but of some great error or frailty in a character.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0U989j62g20> example

## Hamartia

*Hamartia* arose from the Greek verb *hamartanein*, meaning "to miss the mark" or "to err." Aristotle introduced the term in the *Poetics* to describe the error of judgment which ultimately brings about the tragic hero's downfall.

# sympathy

Final scene of suffering



6 ELEMENTS:

1. \*Character
2. \*Plot
3. Thought
4. Diction
5. Melody
6. Spectacle

\* let's look only at plot and character

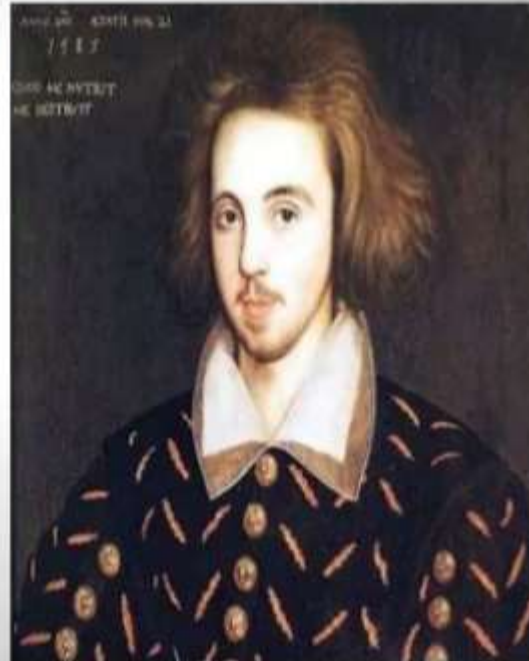
1. Main character is true to life yet more beautiful
2. Main character's powerful wish to achieve some goal
3. Hamartia
4. Peripeteia
5. Anagnorisis
6. Pathos

- William Shakespeare

- Hamlet
- Romeo and Juliet
- Othello
- King Lear
- Macbeth
- Antony and Cleopatra
- Troilus and Cressida



- Christopher Marlowe
- Tamburlaine
- Doctor Faustus
- The Jew of Malta
- Edward 3



## ■ Arthur Miller

- All my Sons
- Death of a Salesman
- The Crucible
- A View of The Bridge
- The Misfits

## ■ John Webster

- Titus Andronicus
- The White Devils
- The Duchess of Malfi



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